

**THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed six members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Culbertson, and Ms. Rytov. Absent- Mr. Schildmeyer,

A motion by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to approve the written minutes of the February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, council meeting. Motion passes 6-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Next on the agenda, Heidi gave us Ordinance 14 2026 which is a Codified Ordinance update. Heidi would like to have this placed on the table for the next council meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 14 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

**REPOSRTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you. Mr. President, just to let you know that hopefully tomorrow the newsletter will be going out and you will be seeing the complete schedule of all our events for the upcoming year or the current year, starting with Easter and all the way ending up with Light Up Saint Bernard in December. So, we have a lot of fun filled events for the year that you can mark your calendars for. We will be detailing that further with the exact bands and so forth that will be playing so we can look forward to that closer to the events. Also, the 2026 CIC Mowing RFP is available both here at City Hall and in print. It's available on the link that is available online. The link will also be available in the newsletter. So, if you are interested or know anyone that's interested in our property maintenance bid for mowing, please complete the package and have it returned to us by 5:00 PM Monday, March 23rd for consideration at the March 24th CIC meeting. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. I have prepared Ordinance 10 2026 for tonight to discuss and then to hopefully put on the table for the special council meeting at 7:30pm. Last week Mayor Stuchell announced that we received the SORTA grant. Well, this is the funding that we have to provide. It will be reimbursed, well part of it. It is 60/40. So, we have to pay the whole thing and then I'll submit to get part of the money back. This does not include the waterworks portion which again we pay, and then they pay us back, but they have not received the numbers on that yet so that will have to be done at a later time. This is the \$1,500,000 for the Washington and Tower projects. I'm also asking to transfer the fund of \$50,000 to the C9 Trust Retiree cash account. This is just putting money into the fund. The money has already been appropriated. Are there any questions? Second on the agenda, I gave you a sample; this is last year's part-time pay ordinance. The numbers in green are what we paid out. The numbers in

yellow are just a suggestion that I've made. The minimum wage has moved up to \$11.00, so last year, the minimum wage was \$10.70. So, I kind of tried to go across and the only ones I really worked with were the ones that were minimum wage or very close because if you look at the cashier at the pool, it was \$11.03. So, I had to raise that some because the cashier usually makes more than one of the attendants. So, I was going to put the example out for everyone to give me their thoughts. If it looks good, I'll make a correct ordinance, which will be Ordinance 15 2026, and ask that ordinance be placed on the table for the next council meeting. One more thing, the summer employee packets are ready to be picked up. They should have received a message from Jen Johnson. She is going to schedule a meeting with all of them. So, you can come see me or Heidi. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinance 10 2026 on the table for the special council meeting at 7:30pm tonight, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place Ordinance 15 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- Thank you Mr. President. I apologize, I was meeting with outside counsel, and I missed the mayor's report. I don't know if AJ's already spoken. We have before you Ordinance 11, 12, 13 2026 which would have to do with the code regarding high grass and the cost of trimming and cutting. So, I don't know if you have any questions about them. He is here if that's all that was done while I was outside speaking with council. But I also do need to go into an executive session after the meeting today to discuss pending litigation. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Zoning Administrator, AJ Schweier- Ordinances 11, 12 and 13 are to seek reimbursement from property owners whose grass the city was forced to cut because they failed to comply with the zoning ordinance. Invoices were sent; they were not paid. So, the proper method at this point is to put the ordinance on the table, then have the auditor send it to the county auditor in order to have it placed as lien on their property taxes. They were done as three separate ordinances for three individual properties, and that is a method that we can use to track which ones are paid.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place Ordinances 11, 12 and 13 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to go into an executive session at the end of this meeting to discuss pending litigation. Motion passes 6-0.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- Thank you Mr. President. The village's balance as of 2/27/2026 on the Star Ohio account was \$9,649,919.16. That concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you, Mr. President. Just a couple things for me. Earlier this month, I received correspondence from Pam Whitmer, the Vice President for Governmental Affairs with UGI Energy Services. She reports that work to drain the tanks at the Synthica Saint Bernard facility started on February 23rd and progress continues to be made. As the mesophilic tank is empty to the point that the remaining material can't be pumped any further

to drain it completely. They've brought in Clean Harbors to finish cleaning out the bottom of the tank. Clean Harbors is a nationally recognized expert in waste removal, and they've been on site since March 3rd. They're hopeful the Clean Harbors will remove any remaining matter from the Mesophilic tank by mid-March. They're also hopeful that all tanks will be empty within the month. As tanks are empty, they will be conducting internal inspections. To date, only the thermophilic tank has been completely emptied and inspected. At this point, they're reviewing the inspection reports, and that they will determine the next steps soon. If residents have odor complaints, they can contact the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency at 513-946-7777. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- February 2026 end of month receipts:

Tax collections for February 2026: \$670,298.

February 2026 is up 2.57 % or \$16,806.00 from February 2025.

Refunds for February: -\$10,734.23

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1,164.50.

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$45,273.35.

Reminders:

All St. Bernard tax returns are required, by law, to have the following attached:

All W2's

Federal 1040 tax return, pages 1-3.

Any federal schedules, 1099's, etc. If you have them.

You will be notified by mail or subpoena if these documents are not included in your tax filing with St. Bernard. Thank you, that concludes my report.

## **REPORTS OD STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. The next Community Connect is scheduled for Thursday, April 2nd at 5:30PM at 5 Star Mediterranean on Vine Street. For the folks who are unfamiliar, this is a town hall style event where all who live, work, or shop in the Village are encouraged to attend to share any concerns or celebrations about the Village. I am also excited to welcome Judge Jennifer Kinsley to our Council meeting on the 26th for a presentation on the Court of Appeals. If you are curious about the appellate level of our courts, how they operate, and the services they provide, I highly encourage you to attend Council or watch live on Facebook or ICRC for the presentation. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department will resume yard waste collection on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning March 16th. This service will utilize a dedicated garbage truck for yard waste collection. Residents are asked to place all yard waste in a separate garbage can and ensure that no regular trash is included. Tire Amnesty week will take place from April 20th through April 24th. Residents who wish to dispose of tires should place them at the curb on their regularly scheduled garbage day. Tires will be collected separately during that week. Please mark your calendars for the upcoming Clean Up St. Bernard Day, which will be held on April 18th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Following the event, there will be a grill-out to thank everyone for helping make our community a cleaner place to live. Whether you participated in the cleanup or not, all are welcome to attend. The meeting locations for the start of the event and the grill-out will be announced at a later date. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President. There was no need for a Public Improvement committee meeting, but I would like to highlight a fundraising event for the Titan Fan Club. On Saturday, March 21st. the Northern Wrestling Federation is bringing live pro wrestling to the Village of Saint Bernard. A portion of ticket sales goes to support the Titan Fan Club. Doors open at 6:30 PM with a bell time of 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 online, \$12.00 at the door, \$15 VIP. The matches will be in the new gym and a high school building. Please come out and support the Titan Fan Club and also come out to cheer on our own Saint Bernard Northern Westling Federation Superstar Denver Drake. I've been to two events and it's a great time. Thank you Mr. President. This concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Absent.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. The next St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting is Monday, March 16th and starts at 7:00 PM in the upper level of the municipal building. The program is about 20th century Cincinnati. It will be given by the Cincinnati Museum Center. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- No report.

No audience participation.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to excuse the absentee. Motion passes 6-0.

The next regular council meeting will be held Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.